

# THE GARDEN ISLAND

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## SUNDAY MOVIES

Probably there are few intelligent people who would object to Sunday evening moving pictures if they could be assured that they would be what they promise—an educational and Biblical character. The moving picture appeals to the popular favor as no other form of recreation and instruction does. For that reason, and because people will go to see them, the movies have great possibilities for good.

They are an agency which should be controlled and directed to beneficial ends.

The concession recently granted by the Supervisors to allow Sunday evening exhibitions very wisely lays down very specific conditions that the films shown shall be educational and Biblical in character, and imposes a penalty for failure in this respect.

It is up to the interested public now, to see that the movie men are held rigidly to the letter of the ordinance, and are brought promptly to time when they overstep the line. The minute they abuse the confidence of the public the shows should be suspended.

We would recommend that a good, live committee of the Chamber of Commerce be appointed in this matter; and that we don't allow the moving picture interests to run in any and every kind of a blood and thunder picture that they want to, under the guise of being "educational and Biblical."

## WHERE THE SHOE PINCHES

It now appears, according to the Independent, that the disparity between the cost of living and wages is more apparent than real and that, for most people, the balance is pretty well maintained. Both sides of the equation have gone up and it is about a stand off.

We begin to be suspicious of figures, so many diverse things are proved by them,—but they now show, it seems, that the combined average increase of prices is 70 per cent, while the average annual income of the railroad worker anyway, is up 87 per cent, with a near prospect of still farther advance.

These figures are perhaps all right, and very reassuring for the railroad worker, but how about all the rest of us who are not railroad workers?

It would be interesting if we could have some reliable figures showing local conditions of income and cost of living. Take the

plantation laborer for instance, how does he stand in the disparity and fluctuation of prices?

Sugar it is generally admitted has not come up in proportion to other commodities. Plantation wages are based on sugar prices, so probably they have not come up enough.

The man who is being left hopelessly behind in the upward sweep of prices is the salaried man, and the man with a fixed income from investments yielding a steady income. Salaries do not begin to go up like wages,—they tag along far behind. Rents do not respond quickly, even where they are on a tenant-at-will basis, and term leases are much less sensitive. Interest, mortgage returns, bond incomes, haven't budged. These are the people who are being sacrificed and who will suffer, and get very little sympathy, and no redress.

Will Hawaii's new war loan director become a permanent Government official, in charge of a department corresponding in size and importance to those of the Collector of Internal Revenue, Collector of Customs and Immigration Inspector?

Recent announcement that a salaried war loan director is to be appointed for the territory, and that he is to have full control of activities in all federal war loan securities has given rise to much speculation among bankers, brokers and others who had active share in the Liberty Loan and W. S. S. campaigns.

Since the governor of the twelfth federal reserve district is authorized to appoint the new official, and has asked A. H. Tarleton, the present volunteer director of W. S. S. work in the islands to recommend for the place, it is generally thought the new officer will be an island man.

It is not known yet how much salary the territorial director will receive. While purchases of government securities promise to continue impressive in the aggregate making the duties of the director important, the actual standing of the office is certain to be measured largely by the income it offers, for upon that depends the calibre of the man to be chosen.

Before making recommendations to the federal reserve governor Mr. Tarleton has queried him on this point, but to date has received no definite reply, the California official being absent from his office temporarily.

If the remuneration is comparable to that given the Collector of Internal Revenue, for instance, it may be possible to find a high type of business man having considerable knowledge of financial affairs, to take the responsibility.

From the fact that the Government now favors placing its war

loan work on a more strictly business basis, it is thought likely that the activities may continue indefinitely, becoming a distinct and fairly permanent branch of the Treasury Department.

In case this policy develops to the logical conclusion, Director Tarleton believes investment in government securities will become a conspicuous feature in the lives of the poorer people of Hawaii. While thrift stamps and Liberty bonds offer smaller returns than most industrial stocks they will contain the superior value of greatest safety, which is regarded as the thing most needed by the small investor.

Before the war it was practically impossible for the poor man to buy government bonds because they were of large denomination and were sold in huge blocks. Now it is possible to buy them in blocks of \$5 each and to accumulate even this sum by daily or weekly investments of 25 cents each.

Honolulu business men, is discussing this subject, have raised the question whether continuance of the government's campaign along this line would not infringe seriously upon the business of banks and trust companies who maintain savings departments.

Officials in the present war loan organization do not think the bankers will raise any objection to it, but on the contrary are likely to endorse it heartily, not only as an added force in their own campaigns on thrift, but as a supplementary source of business for them. A very large part of the money saved by small installments in W. S. S. is expected to find its way into the banks as investment in industrial stock, as the savers accumulate it in sufficient quantities to enable them to buy the better-paying commercial securities.

## LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

### SUNDAY MOVIES

Editor Garden Island:

Only two citizens were present at the monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors last Wednesday to protest against holding of moving pictures on Sundays. Judge Lyle Dickey eloquently asserted his opposition, and drew the attention of the Board that not one person who had signed the petition as being in favor were present before the Board to urge their cause. H. T. Barclay, of Kealia, also voiced his objection, stating that upon many occasions the Tip Top upon week nights was not half filled; should the building be regularly filled it would then prove the contention that the week-day pictures did not satisfy and that the people of Kauai wanted additional pictures upon Sunday, but the present conditions certainly did not point in that direction.

None of the churches or the Y. M. C. A. were represented, the conclusion being, doubtless, that they were in favor of Sunday pictures.

No assurance was given that religious pictures only would be exhibited; had such been given doubtless the objectors would have withdrawn.

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